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# Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields

## Report of the Second Committee

*Rapporteur*: Mr. Walid A. **Al-Hadid** (Jordan)

## I. Introduction

1. At its 19th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2002, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 21st, 22nd, 26th, 31st, 42nd and 43rd meetings, on 31 October, 5 and 12 November, and 10 and 11 December 2002. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/57/SR.21, 22, 26, 31, 42 and 43). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 8th meetings, from 30 September to 3 October (see A/C.2/57/SR.2-8).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit (A/57/75-E/2002/57);

(b) Note verbale dated 22 August 2002 from the Permanent Mission of Jordan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/57/343);

(c) Letter dated 23 September 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Declaration adopted at the twenty-sixth annual meeting of the Ministers for Foreign

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Affairs of the Group of 77, held at United Nations Headquarters on 19 September 2002 (A/57/444);

(d) Letter dated 21 October 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Declaration of the World Food Summit: five years later (A/57/499).

4. At the 21st meeting, on 31 October, the Director of the Division for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs made an introductory statement (see A/C.2/57/SR.21).

# II. Consideration of proposals

## A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/57/L.28 and A/C.2/57/L.70

5. At the 26th meeting, on 5 November, the representative of Venezuela, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields" (A/C.2/57/L.28), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, particularly its resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996,

"*Recalling also* its resolution 56/211 of 21 December 2001, as well as Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/21 of 26 July 2001 and its agreed conclusions 1995/1 of 28 July 1995 and 2000/2 of 27 July 2000,

"*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit,

"*Reaffirming* the development goals and commitments embodied in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, which provide a comprehensive basis for action at the national, regional and international levels with the key objectives of poverty eradication, sustainable development and improvement of the living conditions of people everywhere,

"*Reiterating* the need to strengthen the role of the General Assembly as the highest intergovernmental mechanism for the formulation and appraisal of policy on matters relating to coordinated and integrated follow-up to United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields,

"*Reaffirming* that the Economic and Social Council should continue to oversee system-wide coordination and thus to promote coordinated follow-up to the outcomes of major United Nations conferences in the economic, social and related fields,

"*Emphasizing* that the relevant functional commissions and, as appropriate, other relevant intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations

system, within their mandates, must fulfil their responsibilities as specified in the outcomes of the United Nations conferences and summits and, in this regard, must strengthen their effort to enhance inter-agency collaboration and coordination to implement the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits,

"*Recognizing* that the process of integrated and coordinated follow-up of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits should not include renegotiation of the outcomes of those conferences, in particular their specific follow-up mechanisms,

"1. *Decides* to establish an open-ended ad hoc working group of the General Assembly under the chairmanship of the President of the Assembly, with two vice-chairmen to be elected by the working group;

"2. *Decides also* that the work of the working group should be consistent with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 50/227 and the follow-up mechanisms decided upon by the respective United Nations conferences and summits and should respect the thematic unity of each conference, emphasize that cross-sectoral thematic issues should be decided upon at the intergovernmental level, focus on implementation, taking into account that the process summits should be balanced and should respect the principles of multilateralism and non-selectivity, and avoid the imposition of conditions;

"3. *Decides further* that the working group will help to develop recommendations to ensure an integrated and coordinated follow-up of the United Nations conferences and summits, bearing in mind the continuing reform process of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 50/227, as well as the views expressed by the Member States during the general debate on this question;

"4. *Decides* that the working group will also consider the work of the Second and Third Committees relevant to the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, bearing in mind the respective role of the Economic and Social Council and the functional commissions and its subsidiary organs;

"5. *Decides also* that the working group will examine how best to address the review of the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, including their format and periodicity, bearing in mind the need to recognize the thematic unity of each such conference;

"6. *Decides further* that the working group will consider how to ensure that the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits are reflected in the programmes of work of the United Nations system and are taken fully into account, as relevant, for the operational work and country frameworks of United Nations system organizations, in accordance with national development objectives and priorities, and requests the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and the United Nations Development Group to contribute to the reflection on integrated conference follow-up;

"7. *Decides* that the working group will commence its substantive work during the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, preferably by January 2003, and will submit a report for its consideration and adoption before the end of that session in 2003;

"8. *Decides also* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled 'Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields'."

6. At the 42nd meeting, on 10 December, the Chairman of the Committee introduced a draft resolution entitled "Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields" (A/C.2/57/L.70), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.28.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.70 (see para. 14, draft resolution I).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.70, draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.28 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

## B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/57/L.33 and A/C.2/57/L.81

9. At the 31st meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Italy, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union, introduced a draft resolution entitled "World Food Summit: five years later" (A/C.2/57/L.33). Subsequently, Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Chile, the Czech Republic, Gabon, Hungary, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malta, Mauritius, Norway, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia and Slovenia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 51/171 of 16 December 1996, in which it welcomed the outcome of the World Food Summit, held in Rome from 13 to 17 November 1996,

"*Recalling also* its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, by which it adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

"*Recalling further* its resolutions 55/162 of 14 December 2000 and 56/95 of 14 December 2001 on the follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit,

"1. *Welcomes* the outcome document of the World Food Summit: five years later, which was organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome from 10 to 13 June 2002;

"2. *Urges* Member States to implement in a coordinated manner and in close cooperation with relevant bodies of the United Nations system, as well as international and regional financial institutions, the Declaration of the World Food Summit: five year later — International Alliance against Hunger;

"3. *Requests* all relevant organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other United Nations organizations based in Rome, as well as the international and regional financial institutions, to pursue, at the global, regional and country levels, the outcome of the World Food Summit: five years later in the context of the achievement of the millennium development goals and in the context of relevant follow-up to the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development."

10. At the 43rd meeting, on 11 December, the Chairman of the Committee introduced a draft resolution entitled "World Food Summit: five years later" (A/C.2/57/L.81), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.33.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.81 (see para. 14, draft resolution II).

12. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.81, draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.33 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

### C. Draft decision proposed by the Chairman

13. At its 43rd meeting, on 11 December, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit (see para. 15).

## III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

14. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

### Draft resolution I
### Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolutions on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, particularly its resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996,

*Recalling also* its resolution 56/211 of 21 December 2001, as well as Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/21 of 26 July 2001 and its agreed conclusions 1995/1 of 28 July 1995, 2000/2 of 27 July 2000 and 2002/1 of 26 July 2002,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit,[1]

*Reaffirming* that the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[2] and the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, provide a comprehensive basis for action at the national, regional and international levels with the key objectives of poverty eradication, sustained economic growth, sustainable development and improvement of the living conditions of people everywhere,

*Reaffirming further* that while each United Nations conference has its thematic unity, major United Nations conferences and summits should be viewed as interlinked and contributing to an integrated framework for the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and a global partnership for development,

*Recognizing* the need to continue efforts to use the existing structure, namely, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary machinery, for coordinated and integrated follow-up to and implementation of the commitments agreed at the Millennium Summit and other major United Nations conferences and summits, so as to enhance coordination as well as effectiveness and efficiency of actions at all levels,

*Reiterating* the need to strengthen the role of the General Assembly as the highest intergovernmental mechanism for the formulation and appraisal of policy on matters relating to coordinated and integrated follow-up to United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields,

*Reaffirming* that the Economic and Social Council continues to strengthen its role as the central mechanism for system-wide coordination and thus to promote coordinated follow-up to the outcomes of major United Nations conferences in the economic, social and related fields,

*Emphasizing* that the relevant functional commissions and, as appropriate, other relevant intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system, within their mandates, must fulfil their responsibilities as specified in the outcomes of the United Nations conferences and summits, should further enhance their role as the main forums for expert follow-up and review of major United Nations conferences and summits and, in this regard, must strengthen their efforts to enhance inter-agency collaboration and coordination to implement the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits,

*Recognizing* that the process of integrated and coordinated follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits should not include renegotiation of any outcomes of those conferences, including their specific institutional arrangements for follow-up,

1. *Decides* to establish an open-ended ad hoc working group of the General Assembly under the chairmanship of the President of the Assembly, with two vice-chairmen to be elected by the working group;

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[1] A/57/75-E/2002/57.

[2] See resolution 55/2.

2. *Also decides* that the work of the working group should be consistent with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 50/227 and the follow-up mechanisms decided upon by the respective United Nations conferences and summits and should respect the interlinked nature of their outcomes as well as the thematic unity of each conference, and emphasizes that cross-sectoral thematic issues for further consideration throughout the existing structure should be decided upon at the intergovernmental level and should focus on implementation, bearing in mind that the process of integrated and coordinated follow-up to the outcomes of the United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields should be fair and balanced and should respect the principle of multilateralism and the principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations;

3. *Further decides* that the working group will produce concrete recommendations to ensure an integrated and coordinated follow-up to the outcomes of the United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields and will thus contribute to the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2] bearing in mind the continuing reform process of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 50/227, as well as the views expressed by the Member States on this question;

4. *Decides* that the working group will also consider the work of the General Assembly and its Second and Third Committees relevant to the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields as well as the modalities of the reports presented to the General Assembly, bearing in mind the respective roles of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions and subsidiary organs;

5. *Also decides* that the working group will submit proposals on how best to address the review of the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, including its format and periodicity, bearing in mind the need to recognize the active role of all relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the outcomes of United Nations conferences and summits;

6. *Further decides* that future decisions on follow-up to conferences whose ten-year anniversaries are imminent shall be kept pending subject to the decisions to be taken by the General Assembly on the report of the working group;

7. *Decides* that the working group will consider how to ensure that the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits are integrated in the programmes of work of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and are taken fully into account, as relevant, in the operational work and country frameworks of the organizations of the United Nations system, in accordance with national development objectives and priorities, and requests the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and the United Nations Development Group to contribute to the reflection on integrated conference follow-up;

8. *Also decides* that the working group will commence its substantive work during the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, no later than January

2003, and will submit its report before 27 June 2003, for consideration by the General Assembly and action before the close of the fifty-seventh session in 2003;

9. *Further decides* that at its first meeting the working group will consider its work programme, including the issue of the periodicity and duration of its meetings within the time boundaries established in paragraph 8;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields" and to consider it directly in plenary meeting.

## Draft resolution II
## World Food Summit: five years later

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolution 51/171 of 16 December 1996, in which it welcomed the outcome of the World Food Summit,[3] held in Rome from 13 to 17 November 1996,

*Recalling also* its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, by which it adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

*Recalling further* its resolutions 55/162 of 14 December 2000 and 56/95 of 14 December 2001 on the follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit,

1. *Welcomes* the holding of the World Food Summit: five years later, which was organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome from 10 to 13 June 2002;

2. *Urges* Member States to implement in a coordinated manner and in close cooperation with relevant bodies of the United Nations system, as well as international and regional financial institutions, the Declaration of the World Food Summit: five years later — International Alliance against Hunger;[4]

3. *Requests* all relevant organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme and the International Fund For Agricultural Development, as well as the international and regional financial institutions, to pursue, at the global, regional and country levels, the outcome of the World Food Summit: five years later in the context of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2] in particular the goals of halving the levels of hunger and absolute poverty by 2015, and in the context of relevant follow-up to the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

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[3] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the World Food Summit, 13-17 November 1996*, Part one (WFS 96/REP), appendix.

[4] Ibid., *Report of the World Food Summit: five years later, 10-13 June 2002*, Part one, appendix. See also A/57/499, annex.

15. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

## Report of the Secretary-General on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit

The General Assembly takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit.[5]

[5] A/57/75-E/2002/57.